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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,563	10/05/2005	Svend Christensen	112740-201	1517
29177	7590	07/12/2006	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			RAYMOND, EDWARD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2857	

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/806,563	CHRISTENSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edward Raymond	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20010320</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 7-9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sands.

Sands teaches a method for testing subscriber access lines together with an associated subscriber line circuit and a connected subscriber terminal of a digital telecommunications system (Claim 7: see col. 4, lines 28-65 and col. 7, lines 35-45), the method comprising the steps of: providing a digital signal processor on at least one of a subscriber-line- specific basis and a small group of subscriber line circuits (Claim 7: see Figure 3A); providing, via the digital signal processor, subscriber-line functions related to telecommunications traffic (Claim 7: see col. 6, lines 25-40); carrying out, via the digital signal processor, a plurality of different test functions to obtain test result data in order to identify malfunctions substantially all the time, automatically and successively (Claim 7: see col. 12, lines 4-22); gathering the test result data at a central point while observing specific selection criteria (Claim 7: see col. 12, lines 17-21); and transmitting, in specific requirement situations, the test result data to specific locations in a subscriber access area with which the subscriber access lines are associated (Claim 7: see col. 13, line 38 through col. 14, line 14).

Sands teaches a method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed the method further comprising the step of: transmitting the test result data to a location at which defect-rectification measures are currently being carried out, provided they relate to a geographical area of interest at this point (Claim 8: see col. 12, lines 6-21 and also col. 13, line 38 through col. 14, line 14).

Sands teaches a method for testing subscriber access lines as wherein the transmission of the test result data is limited to items which originated close in time to a time at which the defect-rectification measures were carried out (Claim 9: see col. 12, lines 6-21).

Sands teaches a method for testing subscriber access lines wherein, if malfunctions are identified, fault signaling relating to an occurrence of a telecommunications connection is supplied to relevant telecommunications subscribers (Claim 10: see col. 13, line 38 through col. 14, line 14).

Sands teaches a method for testing subscriber access lines wherein the fault signaling occurs during occurrence of a dialing tone in the case of an outgoing telecommunications connection (Claim 11: see col. 13, lines 29-44).

Sands teaches a method for testing subscriber access lines wherein, in the case of an incoming telecommunications connection, the fault signaling is an announcement in which an institution emitting the fault message is included, a conference connection being set up for the announcement (Claim 12: see col. 14, line 6 through col. 15, line 5).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Barron et al. teach an arrangement for testing telephone subscriber line circuit via B-ISDN Channel linking central office test system and metallic channel unit installed in digital loop carrier remote terminal. Chan et al. teach a system and method for testing subscriber lines and terminating equipment from a service platform. Vimpari et al. teach a remote test of a subscriber connection in a system implementing a wireless subscriber connection.

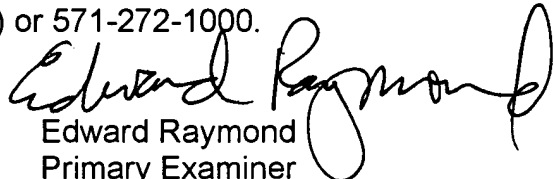
Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Raymond whose telephone number is 571-272-2221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2857

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Edward Raymond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2857

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